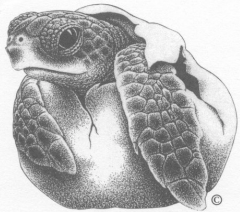


# Share the Beach

JUNE 12, 2001



*Share the Beach*

## How to Contact us:

US Fish & Wildlife  
Service

334-441-5181  
1-866-SEA-TURTLE  
Ext 32 or 31

## Sea Turtle Facts

Loggerhead Sea  
Turtle  
(*Caretta caretta*)

- Status:  
Threatened
- Most common  
sea turtle on the  
Gulf Coast
- Measures up to  
3' in length and  
can weigh more  
than 300 pounds
- Lays 4 to 7 nests  
per season with  
up to 160 eggs  
per nest

Dear Sea Turtle Volunteers,

First of all we'd like to congratulate you on the work you've done so far. With your help we've marked 10 nests as of June 7<sup>th</sup>! This is certainly a great start, but there is still much that needs to be done. We have a lot of new volunteers and we still need to organize (sigh) some of our existing groups.

## Agenda

Our next meeting will be held at the Gulf State Park Resort hotel in the Neptune Room on **June 12, 2001 at 6:30 pm**. We would like to encourage all of our volunteers to attend this meeting. After working closely with our State Partner, we have established a well organized game plan to ensure that the remaining meetings will run more smoothly. Needless to say we will be doing things a bit differently.

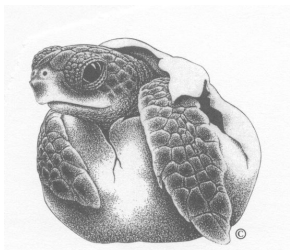
First of all, we will be separating the new volunteers from our veteran volunteers. Our veterans will be reporting any newly marked nests, turtle activity, etc. and we will be discussing any issues or problems encountered so far. Also, all veterans must be in a specified group with an established captain.

Our new volunteers will go through orientation with our State Partners, in which our program goals and procedures will be explained. We will also make sure that all of the proper paperwork is taken care of as well as necessary supplies distributed, such as t-shirts and handbooks. Once the orientation is completed, we will unite both groups and assign our new volunteers to existing groups, and allow everyone time to exchange phone numbers and discuss plans.

## Updates

Sea turtle nesting season is progressing well so far. As mentioned above, we've marked 10 nests as of June 7<sup>th</sup>! Listed on the next page are the nests that have been marked and reported to us, along with their locations.

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West Beach East: 3 Loggerheads, 1 Green (?)

West Beach West: 2 Loggerheads  
(Laguna Key)

Gulf State Park: 1 Loggerhead, 1 Green

Orange Beach: 1 Loggerhead (Silver Beach)

Gulf Shores: 1 Loggerhead (Lighthouse)

It is interesting to note that we have 2 possible green nests, which are uncommon in this area. We also have a report of a nest exposed to wave action that was being washed away, but nothing could be done about that. An even more surprising find is that several turtles have nested on the renourished beach. According to officials in Florida, turtles will not come back to nest on a renourished beach for two to three years.

Also we'd like to remind you to report any nests/turtle activity by calling us so we can keep tabs on when and where the turtles are nesting. You are to keep the data sheets until each nest has hatched.

That wraps it up for this newsletter. We'd like to thank you all again for your continued support and enthusiasm and we hope to see you all at the next meeting!

Happy Turtling,



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